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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,495	08/14/2001	Toshimitsu Fujiwara	018775-838	7913

7590

07/02/2003

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EXAMINER

SHEWAREGED, BETELHEM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/928,495

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA ET AL.

Examiner

Betelhem Shewareged

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10 and 13-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3,7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Species e (claims 11 and 12) in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a serious burden upon the Examiner to search all of the features of the claims does not exist since the broadest features claimed must still be examined. This is not found persuasive because as described in the previous Office Action, each of the features in each species is distinct, and the search for one species is not necessarily applicable for another one. Therefore, searching for more than one species at a time causes a serious burden upon the Examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Baker (WO 00/37260).

Baker discloses an image recording layer comprising a support, an ink receptive layer on the support, and a hardened top layer on the ink receptive layer (abstract). The top layer is equivalent to the claimed surface layer. The top layer is discontinuous

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(claim 17), and comprises at least a polymer of acrylic acid (claim 5), wherein such polymer is a water soluble resin. In view of applicant's specification a water swelling property is given by crosslinking a water soluble resin. Since Baker teaches hardening the top layer by adding a hardener in the top layer containing water soluble resin, the top layer of Baker has the claimed water swelling property, and allows printed materials formed thereon to be separated upon application of an aqueous solvent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaki et al. (US 5,362,558) in view of Tomizawa et al. (US 5,985,425).

Sakaki discloses an ink jet recording medium comprising an ink jet recording layer provided on a substrate (abstract). The ink receiving layer comprises pigments, a water soluble binder and other additives (col. 10, line 60 and col. 11, lines 24 and 41). The ink receiving layer is a discontinuous layer (claim 9). The ink receiving layer is equivalent to the claimed surface layer. Sakaki does not teach having a crosslinking agent in the ink receiving layer.

Tomizawa teaches an ink jet recording medium comprising a substrate, an ink receptive layer on the substrate, and an overcoating layer on the ink receptive layer

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(abstract). The ink receptive layer comprises a water soluble resin, a surface roughening agent, and a crosslinking agent (col. 3, line 43). In view of applicant's specification a water swelling property is given by crosslinking a water soluble resin. Since Tomizawa teaches the addition of crosslinking agent in the ink receiving layer containing water soluble resin, the ink receiving layer of Tomizawa has the claimed water swelling property, and allows printed materials formed thereon to be separated upon application of an aqueous solvent.

Sakaki and Tomizawa are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is the ink jet recording medium art. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the ink receiving layer of Tomizawa with the invention of Sakaki in order to provide an ink receiving layer having improved water resistance property (col. 4, line 32 of *Tomizawa*).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Betelhem Shewareged whose telephone number is 703-305-0389. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. 7:30AM-6:00PM.

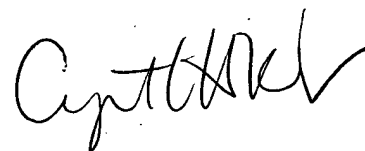
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia H Kelly can be reached on 703-308-0449. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

BS B.S.
June 27, 2003.

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia H. Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.